



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS

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Where in the World is Labor H?

5 Days, 5 Reasons Republicans Won't Bring the Labor, Health, Education Funding Bill to the Floor

Day 5: Doesn't Work for American Workers

WASHINGTON – In the same month House [Republicans fought](#) an increase to the minimum wage without fighting a cost of living increase for themselves, it's no wonder that they don't want to bring their Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill (Labor H) to the floor.

Who would want to remind the public again just how out of touch they are with American workers?

With this bill, training and employment services programs will have been cut \$1.3 billion in just two years, when adjusted for rising costs and population growth.

Wages are down, costs are up, and seven million Americans are out of work. But House Republicans have produced a bill that will make deep cuts into job training and employment services that would help the unemployed and keep American workers competitive.

Key Unemployment Indicators					
	January-01	May-06		Change	
				number	percent
Number of unemployed	5,997,000	7,015,000		1,018,000	17%
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.6%		0.4%	10%
Long-term unemployed	675,000	1,329,000		654,000	97%

The International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB) is cut by \$60.2 million, or 83 %, to \$12.4 million. The ILAB protects American workers from being undercut by child and slave labor abroad. In recent years, ILAB assistance has removed 250,000 children from exploitive work in more than 60 developing countries.

Workforce Investment Act Programs that provide locally tailored, employment services for adults, dislocated workers and youth, are cut by \$431 million, \$325 million of which was already disbursed to local communities. Half of the \$325 million rescission comes from Dislocated Worker funds, taking away the ability of States and local workforce boards to respond to plant closings, mass layoffs, and natural disasters.

This bill cuts \$28 million from the U.S. Employment Service, which matches jobless people with potential employers. Since FY 2001, 5.5 million or 29 % *fewer* people have been served by the Employment Service due to budget cuts.

Job Corps, a successful program that gives disadvantaged youth an opportunity to gain educational, vocational and social skills, is cut \$41 million, adding to a \$350 million backlog of repairs to Job Corps dormitories, classrooms and other facilities.

The Title V senior employment program is cut by \$12.3 million. Title V provides low-income seniors part-time, minimum wage jobs serving their communities. After four years of funding cuts, program enrollment has dropped from 109,900 in 2002 to 91,500 this year. These cuts mean 3,000 fewer seniors will be able to participate.

The bill provides \$9 million less than requested for the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), including a cut of \$2.1 million from the request for coal mine enforcement.

The Republican Attacks on Labor aren't just limited to funding. As we said on [Monday](#), during consideration by the House Appropriations Committee, seven Republicans joined Democrats in voting to attach a minimum wage increase to the Labor H bill. The amendment would increase the minimum wage from its current rate of \$5.15 to \$7.25 by January 1, 2009. The minimum wage has not been increased since 1997. 6.6 million American workers earn the minimum wage. Most are adults over the age of 20 and many are parents with children under age 18. The House Republican Leadership says they won't bring the bill up for a vote as long as they think the minimum wage increase might pass.

[Democratic Views on funding for American workers in the Labor H bill reported out of Committee](#)

View the bill: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_reports&docid=f:hr515.109.pdf

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